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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-22, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 34-42 are currently pending. Claim 43 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 20, and 24, have been amended in accordance with the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of claim 43 and for clarification purposes. Claim 31 has been amended for clarification purposes. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 20, and 24 were objected to as not clearly indicating which controller's internal state information is being saved. The claims have been amended to overcome this objection. It is respectfully requested that the Patent Office remove its objection to these claims.

The Patent Office rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 13-15, 20-21, 24, 38, 41, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the "Background of the Invention" (BOI).

The Patent Office rejected claims 11 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BOI in view of Fujimoto, U.S. Patent No. 6,477,619.

The Patent Office rejected claims 16, 17, 22, 30, 39, and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BOI in view of Otterness et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,601,138.

The Patent Office rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BOI in view of Otterness, further in view of Skazinski et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,574,790.

The Patent Office rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Background of the Invention in view of Otterness, and further in view of Vishlitzky, U.S. Patent No. 6,047,353.

The Patent Office rejected claims 12 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BOI in view of Oldfield et al., U.S. Published Patent Applications No. 2002/0133743.

As claims 31 and 34-37 have been indicated to be allowable and as the three remaining independent claims 1, 20, and 24 have been amended to incorporate the indicated-as-allowable subject matter of claim 43, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on BOI, Otterness, DeKoning, Oldfield, Skazinski, Vishlitzky, Fujimoto, and Okazaki, alone or in combination, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-4, 6-22, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 34-42 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-4, 6-22, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 34-42 is earnestly

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solicited.

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